

Washington School Board Challenge Overview

The first annual Washington School Board Challenge is an awards program created by a growing coalition of organizations from the public, private and nonprofit sectors. The Challenge is issued from the Washington State Parent Teacher Association (WSPTA) and the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) to local school boards across the state. Generous financial support from Stonyfield Farm, the nation's largest producer of organic yogurt, makes Washington's School Board Challenge possible. Martharose Laffey, Executive Director of the Washington State School Directors Association, will enthusiastically accept the Challenge on behalf of Washington's local school boards during the October 15th meeting of the State Board of Health.

The Challenge rewards and recognizes school districts that seek to improve the health of their students through the development and implementation of policies or procedures that promote proper nutrition and regular physical activity. Specifically, the School Board Challenge:

- Seeks out sustainable and exemplary nutrition and physical activity policies or procedures that have been developed or successfully implemented by Washington school boards, teachers, food service departments, parents, administrators, and students;
- Promotes existing nutrition and physical activity model policies or procedures that are making a demonstrated difference in students' access to healthy foods, nutrition education and quality physical activity; and
- Recognizes and awards resources to the best programs in order to support and promote the implementation and expansion of similar policies and programs throughout Washington.

All awardees will receive a certificate of recognition, and the most outstanding programs will be awarded a cash prize from Stonyfield Farm of up to \$2000. Applications will be accepted until April 1st, and winners will be announced next May.

By identifying exemplary policies, the goal of the Challenge is to share information about effective strategies with school districts throughout the state. The School Board Challenge provides a vehicle to express appreciation to school board members, dedicated educators, school administrators, and community leaders who strive to provide physical and nutrition education, healthier meals, and physical activity opportunities for all students.